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At last. The original  
was to Nico from Alex,

Peter

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Telephone (617) 491-1850

Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc.

11 January 1971

Dear Sir:

A substantial portion of the ARPA Network hardware is now operational and several NCP's have been reported to be either complete or close to completion. Several people, including Engelbart at SRI, Sher at Illinois, Crocker, and others have been increasingly interested in Network resource availability. It now seems appropriate to escalate efforts toward providing network resource information to the community of potential network users.

Roberts and Wessler estimate an initial network user community of 2000 people, distributed over 14 sites.\* The majority of the members of this community are unlikely to be familiar with the resources available at most sites other than their own. We expect that prospective users of the network will find a collection of reference information helpful in answering many resource questions directly and serving as a guide to individuals and/or documents for answering other questions.

ARPA has asked BBN to assist the potential user community in obtaining easy access to network resource information. Our plan is to encourage each Host site to provide BBN with timely information on its resources; we will then edit and collate this information and have it made available to the user community. We believe a desirable long-term goal should be to have this information reside in a computer-based information system, such as the SRI NIC, accessible via the network to any user at any time. Under such an arrangement, each Host site

\*AFIPS Proceedings of the SJCC (1970), page 548.

would have direct responsibility for maintaining its own information. However, for at least the next several months, not all Host organizations will be in a position to access such a system. In the meantime, BBN plans to collect and edit the resource information, to put it in notebook form, and to have copies of this notebook made available to each site in the network.

A first draft of the Introduction to the notebook is contained in an enclosure. The Introduction describes the intent of the notebook and provides an outline of the information to be contained therein. A second enclosure provides a sample notebook subsection for one Host (the Research Computer Center at BBN). This sample is organized according to the outline and should assist your site in gathering resource information.

Although we will undertake the production, distribution, and updating of a resource notebook, we hope that each Host organization will assist us by providing its own resource information. We would appreciate receiving this information within the next two or three weeks from each site currently connected to the network. We hope to make the first edition of the Resource Notebook available shortly thereafter. Information should be mailed to Alex McKenzie, Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc., 50 Moulton Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. My telephone number is (617) 491-1850 ext. 441.

We welcome comments on the draft of the Introduction to the notebook, and any suggestions about the notebook's content and/or organization.

Sincerely yours,

BOLT BERANEK AND NEWMAN INC.

Alex McKenzie

AMc:jlh

Enclosures